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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

After 2 years, Katrina needs still great

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Ed Murphy's memories come strong and hard about this time of year. For the next few days, the pastor of Shoreline Park Church in Bay St. Louis will be thinking back to 2005 when Hurricane Katrina — one of the largest, deadliest, and most costly storms in U.S. history — hit his church almost dead center.

The damage was massive, nearly destroying the venerable house of worship and displacing the congregation that numbered about 75 people in worship service before the storm. However, the church has sprung back to life over the past two years with a repaired, refurbished worship center and the acquisition of adjoining property that came up for sale after the hurricane.

Shoreline Park Church is on the road to recovery, but there's a larger story at work there of commitment to their community and the spiritual fruit that has grown by meeting the needs of helpless and desperate people in the name of Jesus Christ.

"We continue to remodel the buildings at the church, but our first priority has always been to the needs of the community," said Murphy, who has pastored the church for nine years.

Hurricane debris had hardly been pushed aside before Shoreline Park Church, with the invaluable assistance of Baptist volunteers from other parts of Mississippi and around the country, had opened a "camp" in the shattered church buildings for the scores of volunteers who would arrive on the Mississippi Gulf Coast over the next two years.

The camp can feed and house over 100 volunteers each week.

"The volunteers who have come have taken every opportunity to share the Gospel with members of our community. Together with the volunteers and churches who have sent money, we are building 11 homes for members of the community. We want the community to know that they come first," Murphy said.

The results have been tremendous, he said. "A lot of people have said, 'If it weren't for the churches, we wouldn't have made it. The relief effort Baptists have made here in Bay St. Louis has made the difference."

At Shoreline Park Church, there have been three baptisms and five others have joined the church in just the past two weeks. Worship service attendance is up to about 110 people each week.

"We always emphasize to the volunteers, 'You're the hands and feet of Jesus.' They take that seriously. It's not unusual to visit a work site and see the volunteers praying over the site and the work they are doing, that Jesus would receive all the honor and glory."

Murphy said he sometimes wondered why God called him to pastor a coastal church. "I don't particularly like the beach," he pointed out.

The picture came into clear focus after the hurricane, however, as God opened opportunities for him and his church to minister through the disaster to a surrounding community that was largely unchurched or only marginally involved in practicing their faith.

Murphy, a construction worker before entering the ministry, has joined the knowledge and skills he acquired in his former job with his passion for winning people to Jesus. The result has been one of the largest volunteer relief and response operations on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"There is still so much work to be done. We're committed to keeping the camp open through 2008. As long as peo-

ple are willing to come, we're going to have a place for them to stay," Murphy said. "We're proud of the number of churches that have consistently provided support for us."

Jim Didlake, men's ministry director at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief coordinator, said Murphy and Shoreline Park Church have played a pivotal role in the Katrina relief effort in the Bay St. Louis area.

"They have done one of the best jobs of taking a willing church and accomplishing a complete ministry model for a disaster relief project of this magnitude," Didlake said.

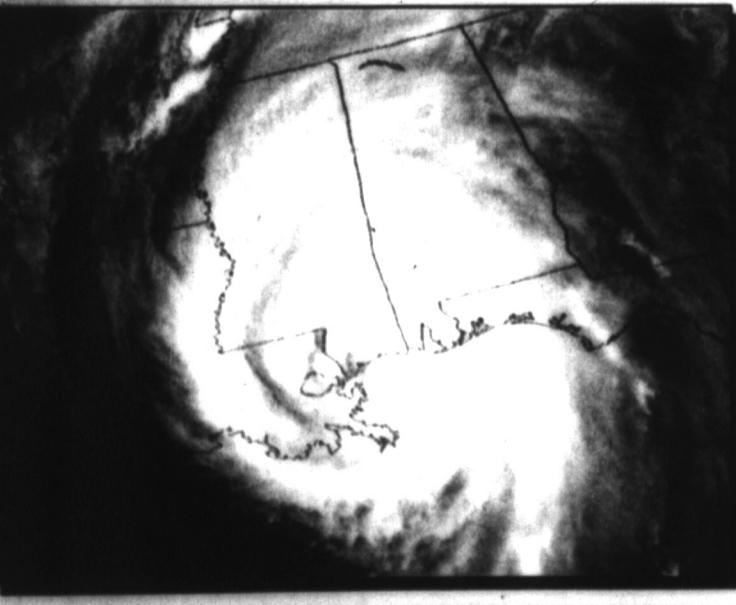
"This has been a tremendous trust experience for me," Murphy said. "My spiritual growth has been as great as anyone's."

Murphy stressed that the need for volunteers is as great as ever, even as Katrina's second anniversary looms and the country, for the most part, has turned its attention to other disasters and emergencies. "We are in dire need of plumbers, for example," he said.

"We especially need volunteers skilled in the construction trades, and we need building materials," he said.

For more information on the continuing Baptist relief effort on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, contact Deanna Vail in the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbc.org.

HURRICANE KATRINA Two years later...





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There's an old pop song, the theme of which is expressed repeatedly in the refrain: "Money can't buy me love." Apparently, that's still true among young people today.

While the mass media portray American youth as dope-smoking, hedonistic Spring Breakers downing mass quantities of alcohol and stripping for the latest Girls Gone Wild video, that's apparently not a true picture of a large majority of them.

According to an extensive survey recently conducted jointly by Associated Press and MTV network — certainly not known as bastions of conservatism and family values — spending time with family was the top answer to the question, "What makes you happy?"

The next highest response to that question was spending time with friends, followed by spending time with a "significant other." Nearly 75% of the young people surveyed also said their relationship with their parents makes them happy.

"They're my foundation," said 17-year-old Queens, N.Y., high

schooler Kristiana St. John, of her parents, in an Associated Press article on the survey results. "My mom makes me feel that even if I do something stupid, she's still going to love me no matter what. Just knowing that makes me very happy and blessed."

Wow. Who knew? That's certainly not the message parents are getting from the culture. Could there be a disconnect between what the Hollywood types are telling us and what is actually the truth?

Money is apparently not that important to young people, either. "[A]lmost no one said 'money' when asked what makes them happy..." the Associated Press article reported.

Who knew?

"KEEP IT BETWEEN THE DITCHES!"



Well, what about sex? Surely sex makes young people happy, since virtually every television show and movie portray them as ready for sex anytime, anywhere, with anyone.

Not necessarily. The survey indicated that young people between 13-17 years of age find sex leads to less happiness, while young people 18-24 reported sex might lead to momentary happiness but not in general.

"Overwhelmingly, young people think marriage would make them happy and want to be married some day," the Associated Press article stated. "Most also want to have kids."

Spirituality ranked high among the young people surveyed. More than half said religion and spirituality were either "very important" or "the single most important" aspect of their lives.

There were some troubling aspects of the survey, too. Considerably fewer minority young people reported being happy with their lives, with Hispanic young people more pessimistic about happiness than African-Americans. Forty percent of young people who said they consumed alcohol within the last seven days said they were happy with themselves — but 68% of those who didn't drink described themselves as happy.

Overall, the Associated Press/MTV survey should be encouraging to parents struggling to raise decent, Godly young people in a polluted American society. If the survey proves anything, it proves that many of the people in the movie, television, and music industries — both behind the camera and in front of it — are at best out of touch and at worst, sociopathic.

The survey also implies that young people desire to be happy in life and want to do what is right to achieve that happiness. As Christians, we have received immeasurable joy through our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That must be our message to young people growing up in such a toxic cultural environment: Their hope to ultimate happiness can only be found in Jesus.

The hour is short and the war is brutal, but we have a whole generation to save from the dark forces of hopelessness that surround them. They are looking to us. Are we up to the task?

GUEST OPINION:



What mothers really want

By Penna Dexter
Dallas

time employment to full-time work or no work. The appeal of part-time employment crosses income and education divides. The proportion of mothers who see working part time as their best option has jumped 12% in the last 10 years.

Ellen Galinsky, president of the New York-based research group Families and Work Institute, attributes this change to the entrance of Generation X into the picture. Gen-Xers, she said, "are more family-centric" than boomers are — but there's more to the story.

Even though 60% of employed mothers find part-time work more appealing than either full-time work or no work, labor statistics show that only 24% of those women actually have part-time hours.

Many companies are responding to the mommy brain drain by implementing part-time and flex-time schedules and generous leave policies, but the latest stats show that these changes have not caught up with the demand for part-time work.

In addition, mothers who stay home are increasingly happy with that situation. Ten years ago, 39% of at-home mothers said not working was the best option for them. Today, 48% say so. The good economy is a factor here. With 4.6% unemployment, businesses are scrambling to devise plans to draw mothers back into the workforce.

This choice in favor of mothering at home still scares some modern feminists. Brandeis University Professor Linda Hirshman, in her 2006 book,

Get to Work, contends that mothers who put their careers on hold to raise kids are squandering their political influence. Evidently she never stopped to think that a mother's influence on her kids might trump her need for "political influence."

Feminists like "political influence" because it translates into things they think all women need, such as government day care and paid family leave, but mothers who spend at least part of the day at home with their children don't need these things and most taxpayers don't want to pay for them.

All mothers do not want the same work/home balance. It's a rare mother who can "have it all" without feeling exhausted and emotionally conflicted. One more finding from the Pew study pinpoints the reality that most feminists ignore — only 10% of mothers surveyed who work full time gave themselves the highest rating as a parent.

Children need time, and mothers know it.

Dexter is a board of trustee member with the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, a conservative activist and an announcer on the syndicated radio program, *Life on the Line* (www.lifeontheline.com).

Koreans pray, hold hope for kidnapped

GYEONGGI PROVINCE, Korea (BP) — "I spend one day in heaven and one day in hell. I am constantly shuttling between these two places."

Mrs. Chey Pok Lee wipes her eyes as she describes the agony of waiting for news of her 38-year-old son Chong Hee Chey, one of the 19 Korean hostages still being held by Taliban militants in Afghanistan.

Chey, an overseas marketing agent with a Korean electronics company based in Seoul, has been on previous humanitarian aid trips, to Turkey in 2006 and India in 2005. He also has taught English to Korean students in an English language institute.

He went to Afghanistan as an interpreter for doctors and nurses on the 23-member Korean team that was taken hostage on July 19.

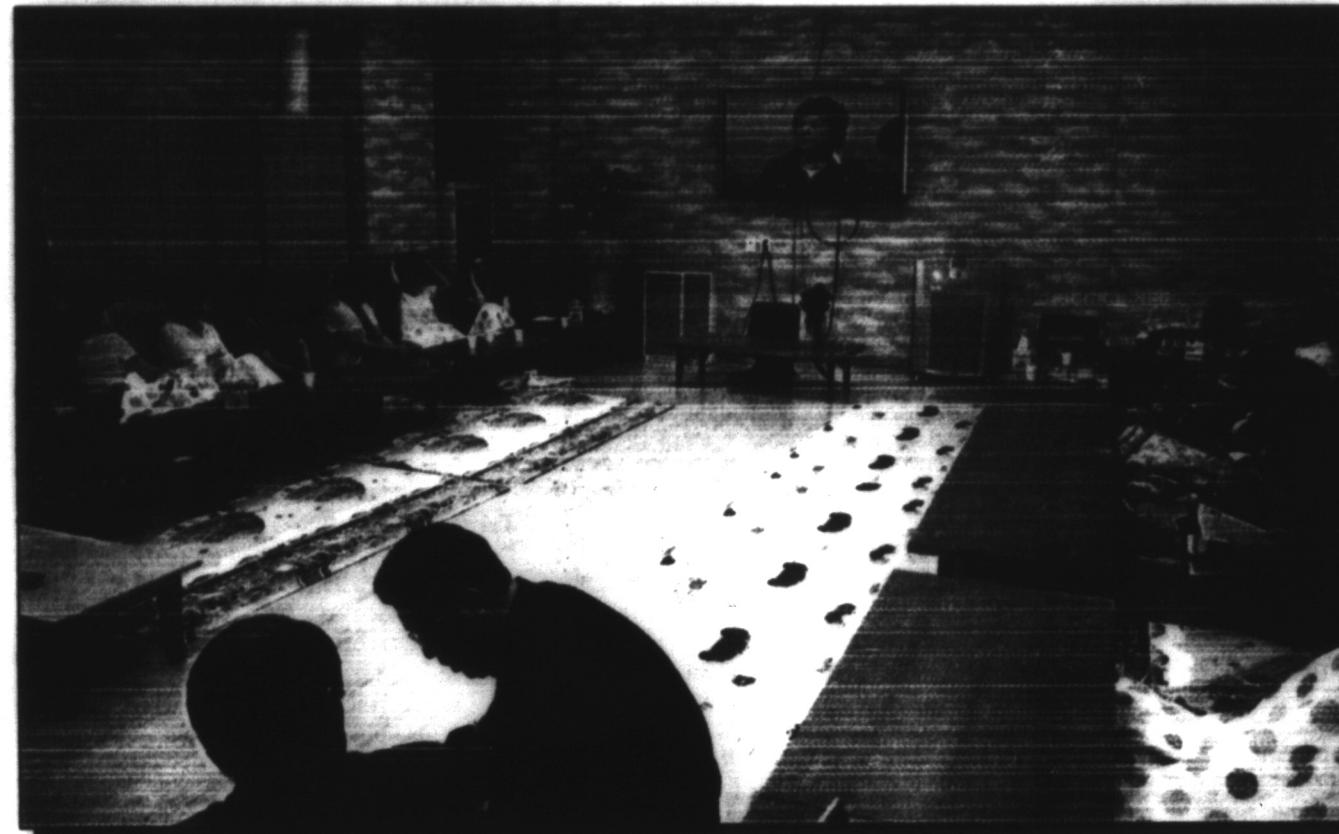
He went to Afghanistan just to play with the children. "He learned magic so that he could entertain the Afghani children," his mother said. "He also left Seoul loaded with toys, books, and other things that he thought the children might need and enjoy."

Lee's greatest fear is that her son will be executed by his Taliban captors. Chey is one of five men who were in the group, two of whom — 42-year-old Hyung Kyu Bae and 29-year-old Sung Min Shim — have been executed by the Taliban.

Bae was an associate pastor of Saemmul Presbyterian Church, just south of Seoul, and Shim worked with handicapped students.

"Those of us with sons are more anxious than those with daughters," Lee said, her voice breaking. "It seems that when the Taliban chooses to execute a hostage, they choose a man rather than a woman."

Throughout the three-week ordeal, Lee has spent many sleepless nights and lost nearly 15 pounds. She and other fami-



WAITING, PRAYING — In a special room at their church near Seoul, South Korea, family members of the 19 Koreans still held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan gather for prayer, mutual support, and news updates. (BP photo by Ann Lovell)

ly members of the remaining hostages meet daily in a small room set aside especially for them at Saemmul Presbyterian Church. Lee sits on the floor and leans against a wall, her knees covered with a quilt.

The atmosphere in the room is quiet and subdued. This day, the families have just learned that the release of two sick female hostages has been delayed yet again by their Taliban captors for unknown reasons. Some pray. Others read Scripture. Many watch the TV screen that has been installed to provide up-to-the-minute news.

Thankfully, the two women, Ji Na Kim, 32, and Kyung Ja Kim, 37, were released to the Red Cross a few hours later. After a medical examination at a Korean air base near Kabul,

the two are scheduled to return to Seoul as soon as possible.

The team of volunteer healthcare workers and teachers are all members of Saemmul Presbyterian Church, whose name in English translates to "spring water." Twenty-three young men and women, mostly in their 20s and 30s, left Seoul on July 13 to assist other Christian workers with humanitarian aid, primarily among Afghani orphans in Kandahar.

Taliban militants kidnapped the group on July 19 as they traveled aboard a bus in the Ghazni province of Afghanistan.

Sharing the love of God cross-culturally is not new to Saemmul Presbyterian. Currently, the church sponsors 47 Christian workers in 14 countries. For the last five years, seven of those have been based in Afghanistan. Three of the seven are among the hostages.

"These young men and women went to Afghanistan with a burden to repay a debt of love," a church spokesman

explained. "The nation of Korea received unconditional love and assistance from numerous nations around the world when we were wrecked by war more than 50 years ago. Because of this, our debt of love extends beyond race, religion and borders. It was the prayer of this team and of our church that the children in Afghanistan would learn from us how to grow and act in love."

Eun Jo Park is senior pastor of Saemmul. Park has been criticized for allowing the trip to proceed in spite of the potential dangers. He has publicly apologized on two separate occasions and has taken responsibility for the deaths of Bae and Shim.

Sitting on the floor with the families of the hostages, he whispers, "I know that dying for the Lord is noble and that these men will be rewarded in heaven for their sacrifice, but to actually lose two friends was something that was unexpected and for which I was unprepared. To see it happen has been very, very difficult."

Looking back

10 years ago

The State of Mississippi presents a check for \$1,000,000 to close the book on the sale of property of Baptist-affiliated junior college Clarke College in Newton. The school closed permanently in 1992.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approves \$5.7 million to expand Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, adding 160 beds, doubling the cafeteria serving and seating capacity, and building a staff housing center that would double as a mini-conference center during the off-season.

30 years ago

Thirty-two boys and girls from the membership of First Church, Senatobia, form a marching band for the church's Vacation Bible School, leading the VBS parade playing Onward, Christian Soldiers.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Retreat center targeted

OCEAN GROVE, N.J. (BP) — Those who believe homosexual marriage would have no impact on religious freedoms may want to take a look at New Jersey, where the state is investigating a United Methodist retreat center — similar to Southern Baptists' LifeWay conference centers — that prohibited a lesbian couple from using one of its facilities for a civil union ceremony. The question is whether the nonprofit Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association — an ocean-front retreat-type ministry owned and operated by members of the United Methodist Church — violated the state's anti-discrimination law. Once rebuffed, the two women, Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Paster, filed a complaint with the state's civil rights office. The Ocean Grove center owns one square mile of property and several facilities, although the one at the center of the controversy is the Boardwalk Pavilion, a building located on scenic property overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. A worship service is held there every Sunday morning during the summer. Allowing the lesbian women to use the facility for a ceremony, the lawsuit says, would have violated the ministry's "religious beliefs as reflected in the United Methodist Book of Discipline and the Holy Bible." Lee Moore, a spokesman for New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram, said the lawsuit was "premature" since findings from the investigation have yet to be released, The New York Times reported. The case is *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the United Methodist Church v. J. Frank Vespa-Papaleo*.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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PEANUTS

I love peanuts. Rarely does a day go by that I do not eat some peanuts. I recently read that the month of March is national peanut month. While I missed that celebration, I try to include the joy of peanuts in my daily life. The average American household consumes six pounds of peanut butter annually. For some of you who do not eat peanuts at all, I am one of those who tries to make up for your shortage. Here in Mississippi there has been a surge in growing peanuts. In 2002, there were between two and three thousand acres of peanuts planted but in 2006, there were approximately 16,000 acres planted. Mississippi is becoming a major peanut-producing state and for that, I am grateful.

As I read about the increasing production of peanuts in Mississippi, I started thinking about this small little nut, which is actually a legume — more of a bean product. I thought about what a significant thing one little nut can do. I was reminded that big things come from little beginnings. Isn't it amazing that one of those little peanuts may not look like much but when you put several of them together, you begin to have something significant? Did you know that it takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12 oz. jar of peanut butter? Did you know that one acre



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

of peanuts could make about 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches? Big things begin to happen from little beginnings.

It is certainly true in our work for the Lord. I think about Mississippi Baptists. Over 200 years ago, the first little gathering of a congregation started the first Baptist church down in southwest Mississippi. Seven people got together one Sunday afternoon down at Cole's Creek and started the first church. They met out of a need for God and a desire to serve Him, but who among them could have ever imagined what God would do from those small beginnings? It seems to me that every week we should be reminded of the big things that can come from little beginnings. That child trusting Jesus as his Savior is no insignificant thing. That young person seeking God's will in a called commission to ministry is no small thing. Oh what God can do — mighty things, big things through what seems to be such small beginnings.

Another thing that came to my mind was what wonderful things can be done when peanuts get together. One peanut alone does not seem like much, but when you start putting them together I suppose you could say when peanuts start cooperating, what amazing things can be accomplished. George Washington Carver is considered the father of the peanut industry. Through his research and consistent work with that little nut, he discovered over 300 uses for the peanut. Peanuts are not only used in peanut butter, but in peanut oil, shoe polish, shaving cream, and in dozens of other products.

In that great prayer that Jesus prayed at the end of His life in John, chapter 17, He looked at His disciples and He looked at those believers who would come, even you and me, and He prayed that we would get together. He knew the mighty power of God working through believers would enable them to join hearts and hands and cooperate. Because the peanut growers in Mississippi have gotten together, hundreds of thousands of pounds of peanuts were produced in 2006 valued at over \$7.8 million. In Mississippi Baptist life, because our churches have joined together, we are able to have great colleges and seminaries, care for neglected children, manage training centers, and administer mission endeavors that literally touch our entire

land and people groups all around the globe. No one church can do it alone, but working together wonderful things can be accomplished.

I noted one other thing about peanuts that is so much like our Kingdom work, and that is you do not see all that is happening until the harvest. Peanuts grow underground. You see the leafy plant part, but you do not see the fruit part for it is slowly developing unseen. While that can produce discouragement, it can also increase our faith to keep on working knowing that God has promised that good things are in store as we faithfully follow Him.

It may be that in your church, possibly in your own personal life, you begin to think that what you are doing is just "peanuts." It does not amount to much and does not mean much. You cannot see all that God is doing as you teach your children's Sunday School class. You do not understand all that is taking place as you work with that youth group. You cannot visualize all that is transpiring in the human heart as you preach a sermon, sing in the choir, or warmly welcome people as an usher. God's Word tells us that not even a cup of cold water given in Jesus' name goes without impact, influence, and significance.

How I thank God for each of you, for in every county across our state and every town, village, and community there are those faithful, consistent, spiritual peanut producers who are making a difference. For the peanut producers, things are looking up. For the Kingdom peanut farmers, just mark it down God is at work. May the Lord bless you, encourage you, and give you great celebrations day after day in the harvest.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

HOOMEOMINGS AND REVIVALS

Bethel Church, Copiah County: Homecoming, Aug. 26; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish fellowship; Vance Dyess, speaker; Del Gann, pastor.

Big Level Church, Wiggins: Revival, Aug. 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Mooneyham, speaker; Price Harris, music; David Perry, pastor.

Emmanuel Church, Newton Co.: Revival, Aug. 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Hugh Martin, speaker; Ryan Burkes, music; Howell Thrash, pastor.

Holly Grove Church, Simpson County: Homecoming, Aug. 26; singing, 10 a.m., followed by noon covered dish dinner and fellowship.

Moak's Creek Church, Bogue Chitto: Homecoming, Sept. 2; lunch following morning worship; afternoon music; Byron McCaffery, speaker; Brandon Andrews, music; for more information, call (601) 276-9227.

New Hope Church, Tupelo: Homecoming and Revival, Aug. 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and no evening services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rickey Blythe, speaker; Greg Reed, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

North Winona Church, Winona: Revival, Aug. 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; lunch served at noon, Mon.-Wed.; Jon Randles, speaker; Randy Tolleson, music.

Oakland Church, Oakland: Homecoming, Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Curt Liles, speaker; Steve McGregor, music; Jimmy Hood, pastor.

Shiloh Church, Big Creek: Revival, Aug. 27-29, 7 p.m.; Tim Gordon, speaker and music; Johnny Hearn, pastor.

Siloam Church, Magee: Homecoming, Aug. 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m., followed by worship at 11, lunch, and Hosanna in concert; George Lewis, pastor and speaker; Beverly Roberts, music.

Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn Co.: Homecoming, Aug. 26; Under Grace in concert, 10 a.m., with meal to follow; Kara Blackard, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Picayune: has called Bryan Anthony as worship pastor, who has served churches in Louisiana and Arkansas and is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. The church has called Jonathan Denton as student pastor; he is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary. The church has also called Joseph Luby as children's pastor; Luby is a recent graduate of Southwestern Seminary.



New Staff at First Church, Picayune

Faith Church, Hickory Flat: has called John Box as pastor effective July 1. He comes from Grace Church, Pleasant View, Tenn., and is shown with his wife Kimberly and son Hayden.

Carrollton Church, Carrollton: has called Gary Bunch as pastor effective June 10. He pastored Woodville Church, Woodville, and comes with wife Connie. They have three sons: Daniel, Andrew, and Jonathan.



Box and family

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 23, 2007

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Noonday Devotions - Mon, Tues, Thurs, 1:00 p.m.
Ministry Team Meeting - Mon, TBA

CO-LIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Praise/Worship - Mon, 6:15 p.m.
Drama Team - Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Dorm Bible Study - Tues, 8:30 p.m.
Chapel - Wed, 11:00 a.m.
Nursing Home Ministry - Thurs, 2:00 p.m.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Lunch - Wed, noon
Worship, Bible Study & Fellowship
Thurs, 6:30 p.m.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Mon, 8:30 p.m.
Lunch & Devotion - Wed, noon
Bible Study for Men - Tues/Thurs, 8:00 p.m.
Bible Study for Women - Tues/Thurs, 8:00 p.m.

GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE JEFF DAVIS CAMPUS

Bible Study - Tues, 12:15 p.m.
Power Lunch/Worship - Wed, noon
Prayer Group - Thurs, 12:15 p.m.

JACKSON COUNTY CAMPUS

Power Lunch/Worship - Tues, noon
Bible Study/Prayer - Thurs, noon

PERKINSTON CAMPUS

Worship - Mon, 9:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Tues, 9:00 p.m.



HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE RAYMOND CAMPUS

Worship - Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Lunch - Thurs, 12:30 p.m.
Weekly Small Group Bible Studies - TBA

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Wed, 6:00 p.m.
Kid's Club, local - Thurs, 4:00 p.m.
Weekly Dorm Bible Studies - TBA

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Luncheon - Wed, Break Period
Worship Connections - Wed, 7:07 p.m.
Weekly Bible Study/Fellowship Groups - TBA



JONES COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Worship - Tues, 6:30 p.m.
Noonday Lunch - Wed, 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study - Thurs, 6:00 p.m.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship - First Mon each Month - 7:00 p.m.
Free Coffee - Tues, Thurs & Fri,
8:00 - 10:00 a.m., Chapel on campus
Noonday Lunch - Wed, noon
Chapel on campus

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

"Vision" - Student-led Worship - Mon,
6:30 p.m., Provine Chapel
Small Groups - Tues, 6:30 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship & Meal - Mon, 7:00 p.m.
Noonday Devotion - Tues, noon
Bible Study - Tues, 9:00 p.m.
Noonday Lunch & Devotion - Wed, noon

BSU WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULES

All Events are in the BSU CENTERS
unless otherwise noted.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Worship - Tues, 6:15 p.m., "Priority"
Noonday Lunch - Wed, noon

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Lunch & Bible Study - Wed, 11:30 a.m.

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ministry Team - Mon, TBA
"200" Small Group Bible Studies -
Tues, 6:30 p.m.
Luncheon - Thurs, 10:40 a.m.

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Worship & Bible Study - Tues, 6:00 p.m.
Dorm Bible Studies - TBA

PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ministry Team Meetings - Mon, TBA
Worship - Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Lunch Encounter
Thurs, 11:00 a.m.
"IGNITION" - Late Night Bible Study
Thurs, TBA

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Shed - Worship - Mon, 7:00 p.m.
Noonday Luncheon - Wed, 11:45 a.m.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

"Iron Sharpens Iron" ISI Discipleship Groups
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sun
"Main Event" - Worship - Tues, 7:00 p.m.
Lunch Encounter - Wed, noon
Fresh Start/Freshmen - Thurs, 7:00 p.m.
Crossover/Transfers - Thurs, 7:00 p.m.
International Fellowship - Fri, 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

"Connectalk" - Outreach to Internationals
Mon, 8:00 p.m.
6:01 Praise, Worship & Bible Study - Tues,
6:00 p.m.
12:01 Lunch/Devotion - Thurs, noon
Web site: www.usm.edu/bsu

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

Campus Link - Mon, 8:30 p.m.,
Student Conference Center
Prayer Breakfast - Wed, 9:15 a.m.
Priority Lunch - Thurs, 11:45 a.m.,
Student Conference Center

WCU COAST CAMPUS:

Noonday Lunch & Worship
Tues, noon, Rm 104

For more info:
Contact the Collegiate
Ministry Department
at 1-800-748-1651



IMPACT YOUR WORLD!



September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko • Gym
Attala Baptist Association

Discipleship Resource Exhibits may be viewed in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. Each church bringing children to the rally will need an adult sponsor for every five children, and the sponsors will remain with the children throughout the evening.

Featuring - Althead (also known as Perry Robbins)
Music - Lisa Crosby

children's Discipleship Rally

IMPACT YOUR WORLD!

Atala Baptist Association

September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Kosciusko
SON Building



SPEAKER Gary Permenter **MUSIC** Kevin Williams

Discipleship Resource Exhibits may be viewed in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Discipleship Rally

RAG CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



MISSIONARIES
FOOTBALL PLAYERS
RA RACER DISPLAY
MUSIC ...

RA DAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE • CLINTON

4th Annual Senior Adult Evangelism Rally

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada
January 22, 2008, 8 - 11:45 a.m.



PREACHER

John Avant
Pastor, FBC
West Monroe, La.



MUSIC

Russell Newport
Springhill, Mo.

For more info
contact the
Discipleship and
Family Ministry
Department
601-292-3373 or
1-800-748-1651

4 BREAK-OUTS:

"Taking Up Your Towels: (John 13)
Speaker TBA

**"Mind and Manna: Spiritual
Workout for Mind & Soul"**
Bill Patterson, pastor
FBC, Richland

"Evangelism Through Caregiving"
Cindy Still, Ala., consultant

Missouri Baptist Convention

**For Leader: "Homeward Bound
Ministries"**

Bobby Shows, former senior
adult consultant, Missouri
Baptist Convention

**2007 DISCIPLESHIP
Rally**

September 16, 6:00 p.m.

ISSUES FACING PASTORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A presentation and dialogue sponsored by

- Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (MBCB)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Our Three Mississippi Baptist Colleges

TOPICS

- Church Conflict
- Worship Trends
- Church Governance
- Leadership Styles

 1 p.m.
 Presentation of
D-Min. program

October 1 – Blue Mountain College
October 22 – William Carey University
October 23 – Mississippi College
Time (all locations): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch provided by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department
 Register by contacting Kay McDonnell at 601-292-3305,
 Fax 601-714-7426
 or kmcdonnell@mccb.org.

YOUTH MINISTER'S RETREAT
NOVEMBER 5-7



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601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651
or redwards@mbcb.org

07 DISCIPLESHIP Rally

ember 23, 5:00 p.m.

For more information visit www.wmu.com.

FALL CHAPLAINS' TRAINING

"Ministering to our Troops – Pre- and Post-Deployment"

September 14, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Skyroom
515 Mississippi St., Jackson, MS

State Chaplain, Mississippi National Guard

This training is for all full-time and volunteer chaplains, pastors, and those interested in ministering to our troops and their families.

Cost of conference is \$5
Lunch will be provided.

To register, call Carol Wright, Men's Ministry Department:
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3334 or E-Mail: cwright@mbcb.org
Sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association in cooperation with Men's Ministry Dept., MBCB.

National wMu Missions Event

**Outreach Strategy Tour:
Developing True Acts 1:8 Churches**

Designed for: Pastors, Ministers of Education, Sunday School Directors, Outreach Directors, Discipleship Training Directors, Missions Leaders, and anyone interested in learning more about these outreach tools

Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas
Oct. 17-20
For more information visit www.wmu.com.

• FAITH Update
Dean Abernathy
LifeWay Church Resources

• Share Jesus Without Fear
Glenn Shows
Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., MBCB
Don Hicks
Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept., MBCB

• One-Won-1
P.J. Scott, Pastor Emeritus
FBC, Olive Branch
Mike Aultman, Pastor
Military Baptist Church
Sumrall

• GROW
John Clendinning
Sunday School Department
MBCB

Time and Place
6:30-8:30 p.m.
(time for two workshops)

October 8
Crossgates BC
Brandon

October 9
FBC, Pontotoc

October 11
FBC, Summit

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or in Jackson at 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org.

Pray this day for...

August 24 - September 6, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"We make a Living by what we get. We make a Life by what we give."
"God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it."

From "The Rose" sent by Sam Forrest

Pray for F and L, a married Uruguayan couple, who are looking to serve as church planters in the interior of Uruguay. Pray for safe travel to Trinidad, Mendoza, and the city of Crav in Rocha, which lies on the Brazilian border. Each of these cities has many needs and little-to-no evangelical presence.

(1) Baptist Foundation Month (MBF Emphasis); (2) Margaret Lackey State Missions; (3) DT Launch Day (D&FM Emphasis); (4) Pray with the Palsa team of Colombia that more Bible studies can begin in the city, and that House of Faith Church members will reach out to the unsaved and begin Bible studies with them.

Pray for the believers all over Algeria, as there has been a crackdown recently on religious expressions. Some of them have been experiencing a spirit of fear. Pray that the Lord will abolish this stronghold and that the believers will feel the peace of the Lord and rest in His promises.

(1) Labor Day; (2) Bob Allen, a church and community missionary, and his wife, Karl, work with the growing Spanish speaking community in Cincinnati, Ohio. Pray for the new children's ministry and for the Spanish speaking leader development including sound doctrine.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.; (2) Professional Certification & Skillshops for Ministry Assistants, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 28th-30th (P/LD); (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, 1 p.m.

The first rains are starting to come in Fulakunda of Guinea-Bissau. M needs workers to help him start planting his seeds. Please pray that more Fulakunda will come to know Christ as the result of spiritual seeds being sown. Ask God to send more workers to help sow the seed.

Thank the Lord for the Bible schools and seminaries in the Philippines teaching missions as a regular part of their curriculums. Pray that students will feel the need to take missions outside the classroom and apply it to their lives. Pray for Missions Mobilization Teams working with these schools.

(1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th (MS); (2) Pray for encouragement and strength for missionary Cherry Faile who has been working in a Western Fulani village for five years. Last August she celebrated with four new Fulani believers who were baptized. Pray that other believers will be baptized.

(1) State Senior Adult Rally, Mississippi College (D&FM); (2) Due to the great needs, Michael Seaman and other chaplains in Iraq feel the pressure of emotions, lack of sleep, no time for themselves, and are truly exhausted. Please pray for strength, endurance, and renewal for them.

(1) AMD/MBCB Retreat, 6th-7th (MS); (2) Southern Pashtun of Afghanistan has strict separation between men and women, resulting in many women rarely leaving their houses. Most are not educated. Pray that the Holy Spirit will provide ways for these women to hear the good news of Jesus

(1) Church Leadership Training Camp, Garaywa, Clinton, 24th-25th (WMU); (2) Please pray that God will continue to strengthen the unity of the two Baptist conventions on a major island in the Caribbean so that the goal of reaching the lost in every area and especially for those places where there are no Christian witness.

Intercede for the national pastors of Northwest Mexico City to see the need for home Bible studies so that the gospel can spread more quickly. Pray that their hearts will be burdened for the lost in every area and especially for those places where there are no Christian witness.

Suzette Wood, Orlando, Fla., is the resort ministries director for the Greater Orlando Baptist Association (GOBA), which has an intense summer ministry because of the millions of visitors to the area yearly. Please pray for the college students serving on the summer team.

FLAKE'S FORMULA

a Sunday school conference with a focus on ministry

Saturday
September 15, 2007
First Baptist Church, Winona

Schedule: 9 a.m. to noon

Conferences will be offered for:

Preschool Leadership Children's Leadership
Student Leadership Younger Adult Leadership
Older Adult Leadership General Officers/Pastors

Keynote Speaker at all locations

Jimmy Draper

President Emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville, Tenn.

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or in Jackson at 601-292-3291 or E-mail cday@mbcb.org.

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

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Corinth, Miss.
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First Baptist Church

CHERYL SWAIN

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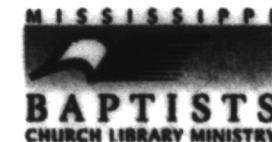
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Deatsville, Ala.
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**36th Annual
CHURCH LIBRARY
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SPECIAL GUEST: Dinner Speaker
Lori Copeland, began her writing career in 1982, writing for the secular book market. After several

years of writing, Lori sensed that God was calling her to use her gift of writing to honor Him. To date, she has more than 95 books published. Learn more about our author from her Web site: www.loricopeland.com.

For more info, contact Judy Chen, Communication Services, 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3378, or jchen@mbcb.org.

HOUSE TOPS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Eastwood Church, Indianola



2. Newhebron Church, New Hebron

1. **Eastwood Church, Indianola:** June, with average of 100; total offering for the Baptist Children's Village, \$139.65; Billy R. Thomas, pastor; Ruth Bowlin, VBS director.
2. **Newhebron Church, New Hebron:** Shown are the participants.
3. **Fairview Church, Indianola:** shown are children at their final session.
4. **Montgomery Church, Lincoln County:** June 18-22;
5. **Faith Church, West Point:** average attendance 146 and 15 professions of faith.
6. **Carrollton Church, Carrollton:** June 18-22; average attendance 65 with 30 workers.
7. **Concord Church, Bruce:** July 16-20; average attendance, 75; 81 enrolled; \$293 collected for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



3. Fairview Church, Indianola

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4. Montgomery Church, Lincoln County



5. Faith Church, West Point

Regional Bible Drill Clinics

These clinics are for teachers & adult workers with Bible Buddies, Children's Bible Drill, Youth Bible Drill & Youth Speakers Tournament.

Children's Bible Drill

- Main emphasis on introducing children's Bible drill for grades 4-6
- An overview of Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills discipleship curriculum for children.
- An introduction to Bible Buddies for all 1st through 3rd graders.

Youth Bible Drill

- Primary emphasis on introducing Youth Bible Drill for grades 7-12.
- Announcing & explaining the return of Quick Drills.
- An introduction to Youth Speakers Tournament for Grades 10-12.
- Explanation of scholarships.

Tupelo, First Baptist

September 10, 2007, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Youth Leader Steve Jackson*
Children's Leader, Don Hicks*

Jackson, Hillcrest Baptist, Byram
September 11, 2007, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Youth Leader Steve Jackson*,
Children's Leader, Don Hicks*

Lucedale, First Baptist

September 13, 2007, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Youth Leader, Curt Lyles*,
Children's Leader, Don Hicks*

- * Curt Lyles is the Youth Minister at Cross Gates Baptist Church, Brandon, MS
- * Don Hicks is the Preschool/Children/Bible Drill Consultant for MBCB
- * Steve Jackson is the pastor of McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl, MS

COLLEGE NEWS



Blue Mountain College will host the Ready to Preach — Ready to Pastor conference for pastor's on Sept. 10. Conference worship sessions will be presented by James M. Lewis, Tommy Vinson, and Jim Futral. Conference workshops leaders will be Kenny Digby, Bert Harper, Rob Futral, and Rex Yancy. For more information about the conference, contact Ron Meeks at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 179) or rmeeks@bmc.edu.

China potential positive, risky

BEIJING, China (BP) — Ten thousand Chinese become Christians each day, and by mid-century the People's Republic of China may be home to the world's largest concentration of Christians — a prospect that holds serious political implications for the entire world.

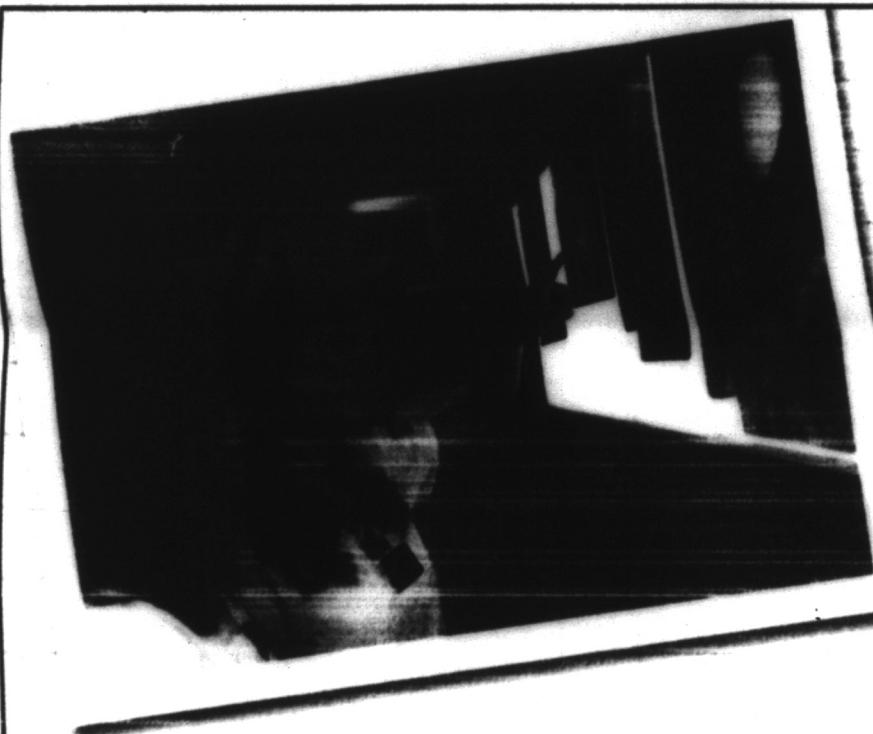
The World Christian Database at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary estimates the number of Chinese Christians at 111 million — an increase of approximately 4,300% in the past 50 years.

As China's economic and political influence grows, the current growth of Christianity, Islam, and other religions in the country could significantly affect the role it plays in the global balance of power, says John Allen, a correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter.

"How things shake out religiously, therefore, is of tremendous strategic importance," Allen wrote Aug. 3. "If Christianity ends up at around 20% of the population, for example, China could become an exponentially larger version of South Korea ... a more democratic, rule-oriented, basically pro-Western society.

"On the other hand, if dynamic Muslim movements create an Islamic enclave in the western half of the country, with financial and ideological ties to fundamentalist Wahhabi forms of Islam in Saudi Arabia, at least that part of China could become a wealthier and more influential Afghanistan."

"If growing religious pluralism in China becomes fractious, it could mean that a well-armed and wealthy superpower is destabilized by internal conflict, posing risks to global peace and security."



From the classroom to the operating room.

Baptist College of Health Sciences offers you a chance to earn a four-year degree in nursing or health sciences while studying in a Christian atmosphere. The demand for health care workers keeps growing, and at the college you can study medical sonography, medical radiography, nursing, respiratory care, health care management, nuclear medicine or radiation therapy.

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

CLASSIFIED ADS

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AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE & beachfront vacation condos.

Fall specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two night efficiency sleeps 4 beachside \$234. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$428. Two nights 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$328. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$461. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524. Shrimp festival weekend not included, expires 10/31/07.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65 nite. Call for information at (251) 689-9981 or (251) 689-9982 or pdiw@worldnet.att.net.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

MOVING? MOAN & GROAN MOVERS, (601) 849-3259. You provide truck & boxes. We provide Labor.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

FREE CHURCH PEWS: church in Florence, Miss., has fourteen 12-foot pews to give away. Blue cushioned seats. Some need repairs. (601) 845-3498.

NEW ENGLAND MOTORCOACH TOUR:

Oct. 1-10. Cape Cod, Sturbridge Village Von Trapp Family Lodge, Brooklyn Tabernacle worship service, Psalms of David, Lancaster, PA. 17 states, bus, lodging, admission, 20 meals, 9 nights, 10 days, \$1750. Double occ., Purpose Driven Tours (601) 371-8733. Many other trips available or will plan for your group.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES:

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SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

SENIOR PASTOR: CLEARVIEW BAPTIST

Church in the Birmingham, Alabama area is seeking an experienced full-time senior pastor to be responsible for all aspects of ministry. For consideration, please forward your resume to 5271 Old Springville Road, Pinson, AL 35126 or connie@clearviewbaptist.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ZACHARY is seeking a full-time Minister of Students. Resumes should be sent to First Baptist Church, 4200 Main St., Zachary, LA 70791, attn: Robert Ballard, or email to Robert Ballard at rballard47@cox.net. Call Robert at (225) 654-7767 or (225) 505-6132.

STAINWAY PIANO.

Upright model 1098; ebony, 1 owner, purchased 1998; \$9,000, (601) 982-4906.

SALE: SONY 52 INCH BIG SCREEN TV. Excellent condition, PIP feature, \$600, (601) 955-6749.

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME seeking Christian House parents for boys

home located in Northwest Alabama. Also, needing licensed Social Worker. For more information, please call (256) 356-8900 or (256) 810-4908.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH — 60th birthday celebration. Join us in celebrating 60 years of Ministry as we Remember the Past — Celebrate the present, and look to the future. Sunday, September 16, 2007, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Followed by dinner on the grounds, activities for the kids, and a youth softball game for more information, call (601) 372-0132. Hillcrest Baptist Church, 5950 Terry Road, Byram, MS 39272; www.hillcrestbyram.com.

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Educating Africans for Christ, a small inter-denominational scholarship ministry is accepting applications from Christian, organized, computer literate person for full-time position. Send resumes to PO Box 5303, Jackson, MS 39296 or call (601) 668-7268.

PROTECT ASSETS & INCOME: How can you protect your Assets or Net Worth in your Golden Years? Meet with us Sat. morning at 10 am at Penn's in Brandon, MS, Hwy 80 Sept 1. For a reservation call Serenity Services, Louis Jones (601) 832-2155.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, Anderson, SC (500 worship att.) is receiving resumes for a full-time minister to children and a full-time minister to students. Please mail to 2503 Whitehall Rd. Anderson, SC 29625 or email to tonys2004@bellsouth.net.

CINCO BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKS student pastor responsible for grades 7-12. Seminary graduate preferred. Send resume to personnel committee, Cinco Baptist Church, 26 Yacht Club Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

MS POSITIONS

BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH,

Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH,

is seeking someone to lead congregational singing, and to direct our choir during cantata musicals. If interested, please send your up-to-date resume, along with references, to 814 Marwood Loop SE, Bogue Chitto, MS 39629. If you have questions, call pastor Rev. Danny Moss at (601) 833-8858.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/

MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH,

Florence, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Average church attendance 150. Please send resume to search committee, 1857 Florence Byram Rd., Florence, MS 39073. Or email to resume@hickoryridgebaptist.org. View website: www.rosehillfbc.org. Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED:

SEND

resumes to Baptist Temple, attn: Henry Masson, 4200 South MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71302.

BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH,

seeking a full-time associate pastor of music and worship ministries. Please mail all resumes to Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073, attn: music search committee by 8/27/07.

ARKABUTLA BAPTIST CHURCH

in northwest Mississippi is accepting

resumes for a full-time pastor. Interested

candidates should send resumes to pastor

search committee c/o, Ernie Lentz, 2951

Bend Road, Coldwater, MS 38618.

FBC OLOH IS SEEKING

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ROSE HILL FBC, ROSE HILL, MS

is seeking a bi-vocational worship leader/minister of music. Please send resumes to Rose

Hill FBC P.O. Box 1 Rose Hill, MS 39356,

attn: Worship Leader search committee.

Or email ebmartin@bayspringtel.net.

View website: www.rosehillfbc.org.

Pastor: Bro. Eddie Martin.

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County Line Baptist Church is seeking

part-time (for now) praise & worship

leader contemporary music. Mail

Resumes to Music Search Committee,

P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs, MS

39059-9715, pastor (662) 312-8564

(cell) or church (601) 892-1151.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

, located on 49 south in Braxton, Miss., seeking

a part-time minister of music. Send

resumes to Calvary Baptist Church,

attn: music committee, P.O. Box 111,

Braxton, MS 39044.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SERVE

in a young exciting and growing church?

County Line Baptist Church is seeking

part-time (for now) youth pastor. Mail

resumes to youth pastor search com-

mittee, P.O. Box 578, Crystal Springs,

MS 39059-9715 or call pastor's cell

number (662) 312-8564 or church

(601) 892-1151.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

, Independence, Miss., seeks a part-time

youth minister. Please submit resumes

to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, P.O. Box

155, Independence, MS 38638.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

When Society Abandons Godly Ways

2 Kings 22:1-5; 23:2-4, 24, 26-27

By Laura Leathers

On the National Day of Prayer (May 3, 2007) Dr. John MacArthur spoke at Woodman Valley Chapel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He began his sermon by asking this question: Has God abandoned America? After a long pause he replied, "I'm convinced in the same way God abandoned Israel, God has abandoned America." There was an amazing silence in the audience; you could tell the people were waiting to hear his reasons why he believed it to be so. He preached from Romans 1:18-32 and addressed the five wraths of God. They are: Eternal, Eschatological, Calamitous, Consequential, and Abandonment. He elaborated on the progression of abandonment which is: "sexual revolution, homosexual revolution, and finally, a depraved mind."

When God has had enough — He lets go!

A depraved mind means "to lead into bad habits; make morally bad; to corrupt; pervert decisions" (Webster's Dictionary). Repeatedly the phrase, "did evil in the sight of the LORD" was used to describe the rulers of Judah — men who lead the nation to worship idols and foreign gods. For a brief period of time things changed when Josiah takes the throne. He was a king who "did what was right in the sight of the LORD." The Lord placed within his heart a ...

1. Desire for Righteousness (2 Kings 22:1-5)

At the age of sixteen, Josiah began to "seek the God of his father David" (2 Chron. 34:3). He sought the Lord for four years all the while the Lord was preparing him for action. Then

Leathers

he began to "purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places" which had grown exponentially during the reign of Manasseh and Amon. It was also during this time that the work on the Temple ceased. The people did not have a place to worship the true and living God. Therefore, Josiah reinstated the need for the collection of funds for the temple's repairs and restoration. While overseeing the work Hilkiah, the high priest, informs Shaphan, the king's scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD" (v. 8).

The Book of the Law may very well have been the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.

Some believe Shaphan may have read Deuteronomy 28-30, the renewal of the national covenant as well as the blessings and cursings of obedience.

2. Elevate God's Word (2 Kings 23:2-3)

Take a moment to read all of chapter 22; notice the people who read the Book of the Law.

God's Word never returns void (Isaiah 40:8) and it will transform a person's life (2 Tim. 3:16-17). When Josiah heard and read the Book of the Law he "made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies, and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book" (v. 3, 25; Deut. 6:4-9).

Josiah humbles himself before God because he recognized the life-changing truth of God's Word. Following his example "the people took a stand for the covenant." When we take a stand to honor God's Word others will follow. Josiah did not elevate himself but humbled himself to obey God's Word.

3. Work for Change (2 Kings 23:4, 24)

Immediately the king takes action. He begins by commanding the temple to be cleansed of all articles which were made for Baal and has them burned. The rest of the chapter shows how he went from area to area removing the high places and putting away "all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem" (v. 24). Change requires acting upon God's Word!

4. Realize Judgment May Still Come (2 Kings 23:26-27)

Even though Josiah sought the Lord and his righteousness Judah would still face judgment "because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him." The four kings who succeeded Josiah undid all the good he had done and the nation fell into the hands of the Babylonians exactly as God had warned the people. (Notice the word 'wrath' 22:13, 17; 23:26).

How can you make a difference in an ungodly society? Dr. MacArthur concluded by stating: "the heart of God resonates from Psalm 81:11-16, notice verse 13: 'Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!'" Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by the truth, Your word is truth" (John 17:17). God speaks truth through His Word. Are you listening? Then walk in His ways!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

ness. They have decided to take up the practices of the world. In verses 16-18 we see the God-fearers who highly regard the Lord's name. They have captured the attention of the Lord. The word fear in this passage suggests reverence or awe. It is not a fear of the judgment of God, but a respect for the person of God. These faithful people refuse to be moved by the argument of the cynics and seek to deepen their fellowship with each other and to reassure themselves of God's justice. Malachi suggests that their names are to be written down in God's book of remembrance. As God's special treasure, the faithful will be spared the judgment which will fall on the ungodly.

God especially treasures those who fear Him and will be compassionate to them on the day of His coming. We can worship the Lord appropriately when we come before Him with Godly reverence.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Worship Appropriately

Malachi 3:1-5, 8-10, 16-18

By Charles Rodgers

There's a war going on within many congregations across our convention today over styles of worship. Some members are calling for a return to longstanding tradition while others are calling for new, more contemporary styles. Both sides cite Biblical references in support of their views. In many churches this is a very deep, divisive and distressing issue. Members are pulling out and/or staying away from churches in droves. This is sad for the church, for the community and especially for the unchurched. And to top it off, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that God can and has worked in the past through a variety of styles of worship. God seems to show up where He is the central focus no matter what instruments are used or what type

songs are sung. The truth is that too much emphasis is being placed on styles of worship and the real focus of worship is being neglected. The question we need to ask is not "God, how do you want us to worship?" but "God what do you want from us when we come to worship?" In various settings, many styles and moods of worship may be deemed appropriate; however, no style of worship is appropriate when people's hearts are not right with God. When we discuss appropriate worship, just exactly what are we talking about? Malachi addresses appropriate worship in Chapter 3.

I. Worship with Righteousness, Malachi 3:1-5

These verses are prophetic of the coming of John the Baptist, my messenger, and the coming



Rodgers

of Jesus, the Messenger of the covenant. Malachi foresees the day when Jesus and His forerunner will come preaching repentance unto righteousness. No longer will God's people be able to attempt to worship Him with unclean hands and hearts. Christ will be like a refiner's fire and like cleansing lye. It is an indication that the Lord will send Christ to purify His people, and they will once again worship Him in righteousness. This is the preeminent qualification for worship. We must come before the Lord in righteousness. We can only worship the Lord appropriately when our relationships with the Lord and each other are characterized by righteousness.

II. Worship with Tithes, Malachi 3:8-10

Tithing is set forth in scripture as the Biblical standard and as the beginning point for giving that God has established for believers in their stewardship of possessions. It is God's expecta-

tion for His people not just a law to be obeyed. The blessings do not come to us based on the giving of the tithe, but the giving of the tithe is an act of worship based on the blessings of God. The emphasis here is placed on walking in obedience with the Lord rather than on the rewards that might be received. God challenges believers to practice storehouse tithing, which will lead to God's abundant blessings on the tither. The storehouse relates directly to the church. It is the place where all the tithes are accumulated and used to advance common ministry causes. We can only worship the Lord appropriately when we place the tithe in the storehouse to advance the work of His church.

III. Worship with Fear, Malachi 3:16-18

Verses 13-18 give us a glimpse of two different groups of people. In verses 13-15 we see the cynics who have come to the conclusion that it is useless to serve God. They see the wicked around them prospering and seemingly getting away with their wicked-

ness. They have decided to take up the practices of the world. In verses 16-18 we see the God-fearers who highly regard the Lord's name. They have captured the attention of the Lord. The word fear in this passage suggests reverence or awe. It is not a fear of the judgment of God, but a respect for the person of God. These faithful people refuse to be moved by the argument of the cynics and seek to deepen their fellowship with each other and to reassure themselves of God's justice. Malachi suggests that their names are to be written down in God's book of remembrance. As God's special treasure, the faithful will be spared the judgment which will fall on the ungodly.

God especially treasures those who fear Him and will be compassionate to them on the day of His coming. We can worship the Lord appropriately when we come before Him with Godly reverence.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

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no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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DTFOF BSAXFZ ZST FMHT
LTFZTAUML, MKU ZJUML,
MKU CJA TWTA.

STYATNF ZSXAZTTK: TXRSZ

Clue: R = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter One: Twenty-Five.

1. GAs and Acteens, Branch Church, Morton

1. The GAs and Acteens of Branch Church, Morton, recently participated in camp at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Shown are Mirilen Howell, Karleigh Mahaffey, Jessica Tagert, Olivia Lampkin, Jasmine Matthews, Kay Purcell, Brittany Tagert, and Autumn Cagle.
2. Calvary Church and New Zion Church, Smithdale, recognize their Bible drillers. Shown are Sam Wicker and Anna Wicker, New Zion; and Amanda Wicker and Kayla Emfinger, Calvary.

3. Central Church, Byram, recognizes secretary Ann Bates for 19 years of service to the church. Bates died July 15 after a lengthy illness.
4. Faith Church, Hickory Flat, held a deacon ordination service for Chase Massengill Aug. 5. Shown are Elgin Thompson, Jimmy Davis, pastor John Box, Massengill, and Ellis Perkins.
5. The children of Parkview Church, Leland, are shown with pennies collected for



Bates

the Memorial to the Missing in Jackson. This is the fourth collection the church has made. Shown are Arlayna Brackeen, Tripp Brackeen, Michaela Fontana, Laura Turner, and Analee Brackeen. Donnie Martin, pastor.

6. Heaven's Journey of First Church, Byram, performed a concert of gospel music at Riggs Manor in Raymond. Shown are Carl Hollingsworth, Wayne Leach, Mimi Leach, Donna Lyon, and Katherine Dedeaux.
7. Eastabuchie Church, Eastabuchie, will host Ronnie Cottingham in concert Sept. 2, 11 a.m.
8. Victory Church, Bassfield, will host the Hosanas in concert Aug. 26, 6 p.m., followed by a fellowship.
9. Terry's Creek Church, Pike County, recently honored Catherine Brown for 40 years as church secretary. Memories, thanks, a "This is Your Life" video, an engraved clock, and a love offering were all shared with her.
10. Sunrise Church, Leake County, ordained Doug Powers as deacon Aug. 5. Shown are Powers and pastor David Addy.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Bible Drillers, Calvary Church and New Zion Church, Smithdale



4. Deacon Ordination, Faith Church, Hickory Flat



5. Penny Collection, Parkview Church, Leland



10. Deacon Ordination, Sunrise Church, Leake County



9. Brown Recognized, Terry's Creek Church, Pike County



6. Heaven's Journey, First Church, Byram